19 September 2005

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Committee on Conferences
Substantive session of 2005

Draft report

Rapporteur: Mr. Enno **Drofenik** (Austria)

I. Organizational matters

A. Membership

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution 43/222 B of 21 December 1988, decided to retain the Committee on Conferences as a permanent subsidiary organ. Pursuant to the provisions of that resolution, in 2005 the Committee was composed of the following Member States: Argentina, Austria, Bolivia, China, the Congo, Egypt, France, Germany, India, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Mexico, Nepal, Nigeria, Romania, the Russian Federation, Senegal, the Syrian Arab Republic, the United States of America and Zambia.

B. Officers

2. At its organizational session for 2005, the Committee elected the following officers to serve in 2005:

Chairman:
Diego Simancas (Mexico)

Vice-Chairpersons:
Anthony Andanje (Kenya)
Mhd. Najib Elji (Syrian Arab Republic)
Laura Onisii (Romania)

Rapporteur:
Enno Drofenik (Austria)

3. At the same session, the Committee agreed in principle that the Chairman would undertake informal consultations with a view to determining the composition of the Committee's Bureau in 2006.

C. Organization of work

4. At its organizational session (463rd meeting), the Committee agreed to follow the guidelines adopted in 1994 and 1995 with regard to consideration of intersessional departures from the approved calendar of conferences and to meet, as required, to review proposals affecting the schedule of conferences and meetings during sessions of the General Assembly.

5. The Committee convened its substantive session for 19 to 23 September 2005 (465th to 470th meetings).

6. The Under-Secretary-General for General Assembly and Conference Management addressed the Committee at the opening of its organizational and substantive sessions. At the substantive session, he introduced the report of the Secretary-General on reform of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management (A/60/112).

7. The report of the Secretary-General on the pattern of conferences (A/60/93) was introduced by the Assistant Secretary-General for General Assembly and Conference Management.

D. Programme of work

8. At its organizational session for 2004, held on 25 April 2004, the Committee had requested the Secretariat to submit a draft agenda for 2005 to the Committee at its organizational session for 2005. At the 463rd meeting, on 23 March 2005, the Committee adopted the proposed agenda (A/AC.172/2005/1) and requested the Secretariat to submit a draft agenda for 2006 to the Committee at its organizational session for 2006.

9. In order to provide more relevant advice to the General Assembly, the Committee decided to recommend for adoption by the Assembly a draft resolution reflecting the substantive discussion that took place in the Committee, thereby facilitating the consideration of the items by the Assembly.

E. Participation of observers

10. The following States were represented as observers: Bahamas, El Salvador, Guatemala, the Holy See, Portugal, Switzerland, Tunisia and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.